

TOLERANCE

DRAWER

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PERSONALITY

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Abraham Lincoln's Personality

Tolerance

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

Lincoln's Rare Tolerance.

Century Magazine: 'The sympathy and tolerance which made his writing and speeches so persuasive assisted his leadership not only in convincing his listeners and in endearling him, the leader, to individuals and the masses, but helped him as a statesman to take large and humane views and to adopt measures in keeping with such views. To that sympathy and that toleration a reunited country is under constant obligation, not merely for the result of a successfully conducted war—successful in the true interests of both antagonists—but for the continuing possibility of good feeling between the sections.

To think that in the preparatory political struggle and during the four years of the hideous conflict Abraham Lincoln, though his spirit was strained almost beyond human endurance by the harassments of his position, though misunderstood and foully calumniated by public antagonists and thwarted and plotted against by some of his own apparent supporters, uttered not one word of violence or rancor—not a phrase which, after the cessation of hostilities, might return to embitter the defeated combatants or be resented by their descendants!

The extraordinary forbearance of the President's has often been spoken of as an amiable trait of the man; but do we fully realize the value to the nation of this trait and the worth of its example in public leadership? After so tremendous a conflict the world abroad wonders at the quickness of the return to sympathetic relations—to closer relations than ever—between the sections so lately at war. But we of the country know that the obstacles to true union after the war were not so much the events of the war—though some of them naturally enough left a trail of bitter resentment—as events succeeding the conflict of years, in that period of experimental reconstruction when things were done in the name of the dominant powers which the south has found it hard to forget and the north ardently wishes could be blotted from all remembrance.

Lincoln's attitude toward the south, when fully comprehended, helped to obliterate the acid stains of the reconstruction period. In other words, we are today a truly united country not only because Lincoln conducted the war to a successful issue, but because of his wise and tolerant and sympathetic leadership during that war.

John C. (K. R. P. P. P.)

1/2/27

CONGR

Lincoln's Rare Tolerance.

How it has made of it We Are To-day a Truly United Country

From "Lincoln the Leader" in the February Century.



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A striking illustration of his sympathy for the people of the confederate states was his attempt, earnest and ineffectual, in the last days of hostilities, two months before his death, to convert his own cabinet to his generous and long-cherished scheme of compensated emancipation. That he failed pathetically to carry through this plan, upon which his heart was set, illustrates also the fact that uninterrupted success is not necessary to the fame of the great figures of history.

Lincoln's failure to win support for this humane policy deeply grieved him, but the misadventure is not held against him in the estimate of his greatness. On the contrary, the fact that he made the attempts counts in his favor, and to-day especially endears him to multitudes of his countrymen, and is one of the very bonds that hold the country together.

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He who is known now as the Great Emancipator set before him as the one indispensable aim not the immediate freedom of the slave, but the immediate salvation of the Union—the integrity of the nation—though when the time came for emancipation to assist Union, how joyfully and confidently he put forth emancipation! With what courage, and in the face of what heavy risks! In many thoughtful minds the fact that Lincoln's policy was the Union first, and abolition next, remains his highest title to world-wide fame—that his saving of the nation is the gigantic feat that lifts him to the companionship of the most momentous characters of universal history.

"This Union," says John Coleman Adams, "is the consummation of all the struggles of all men toward a state of universal peace. It is the life and aspiration of the world organized into a nation." The threat to undo the Union was a "peril to mankind." That Lincoln instinctively felt this, and strained every nerve to the supreme task of preserving the nation, and this with success, gives him rank among the greatest. That he did this, and destroyed slavery also, proves his genius, and doubly crowns his stupendous accomplishments.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1928.

Tottering Civil War Vet Voices Tribute Inspired By Tolerance of Lincoln

Abraham Baer, Once Member of Crack Cavalry Unit
Dreams of the Kindness, Consideration of
Martyred President. *Kansas City Journal-Post*

Each pleasant afternoon, while the winter's sun tempers the air to a pleasantness that shields the thin blood of age, there walks alone around the corners of the Thirty-first street and Troost avenue district, a man who loves Abraham Lincoln with an undying love.

Tired is Abraham Baer, 3032 Troost avenue. His eighty-seven years of active life have left little of the once big strapping boy who proudly wore the uniform of the 4th Pennsylvania cavalry—that crack body of men who in spite of the indifference of the man himself, tried to protect and keep safe the life of the Civil war president.

Last night this veteran of the Civil war was thinking some rather strange thoughts.

"I wonder if tomorrow, when all the papers, all the pulpits and hundreds of people will be talking about Lincoln, will they think of that lesson which his life has so clearly taught?" asked the aged disciple of Lincolnism.

"What is that great lesson you think so much of?" he was asked.

Simple Understanding Best.

"Well, maybe its just an old man's fancy," Mr. Baer answered in the pleasing, soft voice of age. "Maybe my cloistered life of the last few years has dimmed my perceptions, but it seems to me the world needs most of all to get back to a simple understanding of people.

"Maybe, if I tell you a story, I can explain it better," he said.

"After the surrender of the armies of the South, President Lincoln asked several boys from the old 4th cavalry to accompany him on a short visit. It led to the home of the Confederate general, George Pickett.

"Of course, the general wasn't there, but the president told Mrs. Pickett he had long wanted to see the home, for he had heard it described by a boyhood friend, when they both lived back in Quincy, Ill. Mrs. Pickett asked his name. He told her he was Abraham Lincoln.

Declains All Fame.

"The president?" Mrs. Pickett asked in surprise.

"No, ma'am; just Abraham Lincoln, George Pickett's old boyhood friend."

"Maybe if you can't imagine the bitterness of those April days you cannot get the meat of my story," the old soldier explained. "But it's this way:

"For years now, and tomorrow I suppose it will be repeated, lawyers, and preachers and editors and people in every walk of life have been saying Lincoln was great because of something that appealed especially to them.

"He was a great lawyer, a shrewd politician, a fearless fighter for the oppressed, a deeply spiritual Christian. He was all that, but I love him because he was tolerant.

"You know when old fellows are alone we dream and think, and think and dream. I've got a dream that has been in my mind until almost I think sometimes it's going to be a truth—but of course, it's not.

coln lived—tolerant, thoughtful and considerate of every man."

Dreams of Lincoln.

"I dream that I have a great legacy to leave to the world; a last wish; a reward for me of some kind, but what, my dream has never told me. But my dream always starts with Lincoln and ends with the awarding of my legacy.

"It was the dream of Lincoln, too. I never noticed then, as I do now, whether there was present in the world such a peculiar situation as there now seems to me to exist. But surely the situation existed, for he preached it, lived it, and wished it most of all for the people he loved so dearly.

"That was that we live here together on earth loving our neighbors. That we might be kind to every man, whether he be of our race, whether his religion was just like our, or whether he agreed with us, or even loved us.

"Think of him as you will, a great lawyer, a shrewd politician, a noble Christian gentleman—assemble every attribute—and after you have said each one, say 'and he was tolerant.'

Learned His Lesson.

"Maybe I've lived the intolerant way, too. But now I see that, after all, 'God's in His heaven and all's well with the world.' Lincoln is great because he didn't have to live to be 87 years old to learn the lesson of tolerance, as I have.

"A man's religion, or a man's birth or a man's beliefs weren't the deciding factors by which Abraham Lincoln measured men. I know that, for I was close to him for five years and I had a chance to see for myself.

"What does it matter? The God who judges me is the same God who judged Lincoln, and He is the same God who judges every man.

"I wish I could give to this world the power of love and tolerance that I know Lincoln had. I know it would be a happier world, for I was never happy until I learned to live, as Lin-

LINCOLN'S LOVE OF TOLERANCE IS GIVEN STRESS

Chicago Tribune 2-12-47
Dr. Stuart W. McClelland, president of Lincoln Memorial university, Harrogate, Tenn., told the Rotary club audience in the Sherman hotel yesterday that Abraham Lincoln's tolerance was so complete that he showed tolerance even for intolerance.

Addressing the club's annual observance of Lincoln's birthday anniversary, Dr. McClelland said that Lincoln's "song of peace and love down thru the years will be a clarion call to high minded men."

Sense of Equality

Lincoln was born in an era when intolerance was at its worst, the speaker said. He pointed out that Lincoln's struggle for existence in the pioneer west gave him self-reliance and he acquired a sense of equality from the society in which he moved.

Another quality instilled in the President-to-be by the rugged life of the life of the Illinois of his day was that of neighborliness, because "you needed good neighbors in the wilderness," Dr. McClelland said.

Lincoln's tolerance extended into his political appointments, in which he never permitted personal animus to interfere with his judgment in naming appointees, the speaker said.

Despite the fierce religious intolerance of Lincoln's time, he did not condemn the persons of a creed or faith because of the actions of a few of its members. Lincoln set an example for tolerance, Dr. McClelland said, when he voided the order of Gen. Grant which ordered all Jews out of his military district within 24 hours.

A Speaker from Egypt

Another speaker was Dr. John S. Badeau, president of American university, Cairo, Egypt. He declared that if the United States is to be a determining factor in whether the middle east shall be totalitarian or

democratic it must "let loose mental, intellectual, and ethical forces that will make the middle east people a part of our world."

Katherine Cain Stack of Chicago, president of the Illinois department of the American Legion auxiliary, will represent more than 700 units in the state when she places a wreath on Lincoln's tomb this afternoon as part of an annual pilgrimage to Springfield to commemorate his birthday.

Other wreaths will be placed by Mrs. Norton H. Pearl of Detroit, national president, representing 800,000 auxiliary members; Paul H. Griffith of Uniontown, Pa., national commander of the American Legion, and William P. Kleuskens of Chicago, state Legion commander.

Relics on Display

Lincoln relics will be on display in the Chicago Historical society's museum and observances will be held in several of the park district's fieldhouses. More than 500 Boy Scouts will take part in a Lincoln program at 10:30 a. m. at St. Gau-

den's statue of Lincoln in Lincoln park.

Coincident with Lincoln's birthday, the carving of his famous Gettysburg address in the stone of Tribune Tower on the 25th floor roof deck will be completed.

The entire address has been sandblasted into the stone thru rubber stencils on the south face of the deck by William Giese of Beecher and Henry Gast of Steger, stone carvers. The work took three weeks, delayed only for several days by severe weather.

Chicago 2-12-47

Lincoln And Hawkes

In his campaign literature and in his speeches, Senator Albert W. Hawkes has often professed his great admiration for Abraham Lincoln. In fact, the Senator has at times detected a resemblance between his own political ideals and those of the martyred President. Needless to say, this resemblance exists only in the imagination of Senator Hawkes.

Perhaps Lincoln's most notable characteristic was a kindly spirit of tolerance, one which resisted the temptation to match hate with hate. It was expressed in immortal words in his Second Inaugural: "With malice toward none; with charity for all; with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right . . ."

Is there any similarity in the spirit which found expression in these words and that which impelled Senator Hawkes to say at the annual dinner of the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce: "I have never hated anyone in my life longer than over-night. There is one exception — and he lies buried in Hyde Park."

TRENTON EVENING TIMES, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1948

Lincoln Philosophy Would Solve Labor Woes, Says W. A. Purtell

William A. Purtell, West Hartford, manufacturer, told the Rotary club in a Lincoln Day address in the Stratfield hotel today that "a little of Abe Lincoln's philosophy brought to labor-management relations today would work miracles."

Contending strikes "are a confession of failure by civilized men", Mr. Purtell asserted:

"If simple decency and a touch of Lincoln's tolerance were brought to the bargaining table by both sides, there would never be a strike."

Mr. Purtell, a candidate for the Republican nomination for United States Senator was making his

first major speaking appearance in Fairfield county, home district of Prescott Bush, of Greenwich, the 1950 senatorial nominee who is in the field again, and the other two avowed Republican candidates for the senatorial nomination, John M. Lupton, of Weston, and Probate Judge Walten Clark, Jr., of Darien.

In his talk Mr. Purtell was critical of both labor and management.

"We in 1952, in management, and among some labor leaders too, are still living with the pre-Lincoln hatreds and stereotypes of

(Continued on Page Two)

SPEAKER STRESSES LINCOLN'S IDEALS

(Continued from Page One)

the 'master and servant' era," he said.

"Management and labor too often are motivated by stereotyped thinking. On the one hand the labor leader sometimes to maintain his strength in the union paints management in untrue colors. Management goes it one better by painting a description of labor leaders as a gang of two-headed monsters.

"As you can well imagine when two defenders of stereotyped thinking get to the conference table emotion runs high and reason totters on the throne. Most manufacturers are fairly reasonable fellows, and I have yet to meet a two-headed monster among labor leaders.

'All In Same Boat'

"What we need to learn—both of us, labor and management—is the fact that mankind, all of it, is essentially in the same boat.

"Let us establish our common partnership as human beings," he pleaded. "Let us, as Lincoln so wisely discovered, remember always that in the narrower category of our country there is still the common denominator that is more important and more compelling than the purely artificial social divisions set up by pompous men."

Mr. Purtell said he detested phrases like "labor-management"

Bridgeport Post
2-12-52

Touch of Lincoln Tolerance Would Prevent Strikes, Club Told

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Mr. Purtell said he detested phrases like "labor-management" because "it's like the old one about 'master and servant'.

"I don't think of men in a factory as living in two separate compartments: one, those who do the work; and the other, those who do no work. I think labor and management are two sides of an American coin. I can't for the life of me understand or believe that the ancient claw-and-club philosophy has a place in the American industrial scene."

He asserted too that any employer who looks down on his worker is a "knucklehead."

"Any manufacturer, any employer, who gains an exaggerated opinion of his own importance," Mr. Purtell declared, "wants to remember that when we are taken individually from the protective environment of our own factories, we do not ordinarily cut much swath. Some of our own workers frequently are leading lives that are just as interesting, just as useful as our own."

"The point I am trying to make is that neither dollars in the bank nor membership in clubs or on

basically," he said. "They are important only in the same way that money is important—you must have it in order to buy things, but it is nothing to bow down to and worship."

Mr. Purtell said "there are some, thoughtless people in the world who believe that wars are inevitable. There are some people, even worse, who welcome wars as periods in which their distorted egos can better function. That is also true on the industrial front.

Good Relations Praised

"Yet there are employers, and I could cite their names right here in Connecticut, who are right up in the front line in nurturing good Christian relations with workers. They are the pioneers of the new American system of enlightened capitalism, and they have their counterparts in labor who willingly forego the opportunities to arouse class hatreds and enmities, who refuse to slander an employer for personal advantage."

He had a further word of optimism.

"Today I think there are more reasonable conferences between men at the bargaining table than ever before in history. We are getting things done. We shall get them done better when we replace the wooden plough of artificial animosities between labor and management with the tractor of mutual good will, mutual respect, powered by common objectives.

"And the common objectives, on which labor and management can agree, are real and substituting peace, real and subsisting prosperity through an economy based on constructive and not destructive activities."

He added, "I want a better world and better life for my children than I had—and I do not begrudge any worker a similar aspiration as long as he pulls his oar."

Forum

Lincoln Understood Need of Tolerance

To the Editor of The Gazette:

The birthday of Abraham Lincoln serves to focus attention on the enduring influence of his life and words upon the spirit of our people,

Lincoln saw that life was a gift to be enjoyed in common. He understood that tolerance toward the opinions and ways of other people was an imperative need of the times.

His philosophy on this subject was never better put than in a homely little anecdote which deals with an attack upon him by a goat which mischievous boys had bedeviled to annoy people. Catching the goat by the horns and dropping down and putting his face close to that of the goat, it is related he drawled:

"Now there isn't any good reason why you should want to harm me; and there isn't any good reason why I should want to harm you. The world is big enough for both of us to live in. If you behave yourself as you ought to, and if I behave myself like I ought to, we will live in peace and harmony like good neighbors."

Schopenhauer once wrote: "I know of no more beautiful prayer than that which the Hindus of old used in closing their public spectacles; it was, 'May all that have life be delivered from suffering.'" The whole vibration of Abraham Lincoln's spiritual being was attuned to such a statement.

GEORGE R. FARNUM

6 Beacon St.,
Boston.

TOLERANCE AND CHARITY.

[Democrat-Chronicle, Rochester, N. Y.]

There seems nothing new to be said of Abraham Lincoln, the anniversary of whose birth is near at hand. By world consent he was one of the world's few greatest; yet one superb quality of his has not, as we think, been stressed as it might well be. He was one of the most tolerant men of his time and perhaps of any time. Certainly no man of eminence in American public life ever surpassed him in kindly tolerance for all forms of religious beliefs. That is a distinguishing characteristic of all men who are truly great; and to it the great President conjoined a charity which delighted to cover with a mantle, as far as that could be done, the errors of intention, omission, misjudgment of friends and enemies alike. Tolerance and charity were the qualities developed in him as nearly to perfection as in any great figure mankind has produced; yet our nation has now run into an epoch when that which was the glory of our greatest American, as many regard him, is condemned by hosts of lesser men, and hateful intolerance is even flaunted mistakenly as a badge of virtue.

Lincoln

THE TOLERANCE OF LINCOLN

BY W. L. Y. DAVIS

"His individuality, his self-reliance, his patience, his tolerance and his intellectual honesty" made Lincoln beloved of the people, said Herbert Hoover.

The tolerance of Lincoln shines out like a beacon on a high mountain in this dark night of shocking persecution of the Jews, burning of books, purging of thinkers, concentration camps, firing squads!

Lincoln was tolerant toward his friends who made it difficult for him. Horace Greeley thought the war ought to be ended by arbitration, so the President appointed him on such a commission.

He was tolerant of the members of his own official family, his Cabinet. When one of them called him "the original gorilla," and a loyal gossip told him, Lincoln passed it off: "Did he say that? Then it must be so; he's usually right."

Anyone who could choose for his Secretary of State one of his principal political antagonists, as Lincoln did in appointing William H. Seward to that post, does not hold either fear or revenge.

Anyone who could swallow the insults of that "bag of spleen," Edwin M. Stanton, for the good of the country, is a patriot as well as a Christian.

Anyone who could grant the kindly terms given Lee's unconditionally surrendering army and the arch-rebel Jefferson Davis is no Franco nor Mussolini.

When someone wanted Grant ousted because he drank, Lincoln merely asked what brand of whisky the general used; he said he would like to send a few barrels to his other officers.

One who could mildly rebuke his friends for celebrating his re-election and say, "It gives me no pleasure to triumph over any man," is more than a ruler; he is a brother. The person who "writes the sins of others in sand and their merits in marble" is a follower of the Nazarene.

One who could say of a soldier found sleeping at his post, "I don't believe shooting will do him any good," is more than the commander-in-chief; he is a friend.

Lincoln's father was a Baptist; Bishop Simpson of the Methodist Church was his close friend and adviser; himself he attended a Presbyterian church. He never formally affiliated himself with any denomination, but he said that when he could find one that had for its creed, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind . . . and thy neighbor as thyself," he would join it.

The man who said, "With malice toward none, with charity for all," makes the intolerance of totalitarianism the hallmark of the anti-Christ.

But we do not have to go abroad to find place to apply the Lincoln ideologies. Lincoln never tried to purge the obnoxious members of his own party nor insisted that they make his views their own, even to the extent of disregarding the Constitution. He never tried to reorganize the "government of the people, by the people, and for the people," according to his own ideas, nor to pack the Supreme Court to accord with his policies.

Lincoln's life offers us many lessons, but the greatest of them is tolerance.

Lincoln

